

PATENT APPLICATION

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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

for

SURGICAL KIT WITH ACCESSORY ITEM CONTAINER

of

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

SURGICAL KIT WITH ACCESSORY ITEM CONTAINER

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BACKGROUND

The present invention relates to pre-packaged surgical kits in general, and more particularly to surgical kits for percutaneous endoscopic procedures.

Various medical procedures are simplified by providing the physician with a kit that contains the majority, if not all, of the necessary medical articles or
10 implements that the physician or surgical staff will need to complete a particular procedure. Kits may include articles such as, for example, drapes, syringes, scalpels, needles, clamps, gauze, sponges, drugs, sutures, and devices. Such kits are commonly provided for procedures such as, for example, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy ("PEG") and laparoscopic jejunostomy. These kits
15 reduce the time spent by hospital personnel gathering the appropriate articles that are required for a particular procedure and ensure that the surgeon has each article at hand at the appropriate point in the procedure.

Conventional kits provide not only the surgical implements, such as scalpels, needles, scissors, and the like, but also "accessory" items such as
20 swabs, gauze pads, single-use packages of ointments and lubricants, suture strands, sponges, and the like. These relatively small, loose, items are, however, relatively difficult to store in the kits. Such items may be simply placed loosely in the kit or provided in a sealed pouch. Once the kits or pouches are opened,

these items tend to clutter the kit or are moved out of the kit to various locations by the surgical staff. It is difficult to maintain accountability of the items. Also, the accessory items are generally single-use disposable items and conventional kits do not provide a means for accountability and disposal of the devices after

5 use.

SUMMARY

Objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the following description, or may be obvious from the description, or may be learned through practice of the invention.

10 The present invention provides a surgical kit of the type wherein the contents of the kit include surgical implements and accessory items to be used in performing a particular type of surgery. An example of such a kit is a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) kit. It should be appreciated, however, that kits according to the present invention are not limited to any

15 particular set of contents or any particular surgical procedure. The teachings of the present invention are beneficial for any pre-packaged surgical kit.

An embodiment of a surgical kit according to the invention includes a tray having a plurality of recesses formed therein for receiving surgical articles or implements useful in performing a particular surgical procedure. The terms

20 surgical "articles" or "implements" are intended to encompass any combination of devices used in a surgical procedure and may include, without limitation, scissors, clamps, forceps, medicines and drugs, syringes, needles, tubes, scalpels, snares, and so forth. Certain procedures will require devices that are

specific to only one type of procedure. For example, a PEG kit may also include a "push" or "pull" assembly, a bolus adapter assembly, feeding tube locking ring, etc.

The kit may also include any combination of "accessory" surgical items.

- 5 The term "accessory" is meant to encompass generally loose ancillary articles such as any number of pre-packaged single-use disposable items. Such items may include, for example, sutures, swabs, ointment packages, lubricant packages, drapes, gauze pads, small vials or packages of drugs, and the like. In this regard, the kit according to the invention includes an accessory item
- 10 container that may be received in a container recess defined in the tray. The accessory items are placed in the container and the container is placed into the tray prior to sealing the tray. In one particular embodiment, the container is a multi-sided substantially rigid structure having a base member and a lid. The lid may be attached to the base member, for example by way of a living hinge. The
- 15 lid is reclosable and a securing device may be configured for releasably engaging the lid with the base member.

- It may be desirable for the container to be engaged by or seated in the tray so that the container is positively retained in a precise location within the tray. For example, the container recess may include side walls that define a
- 20 nesting location for said container.

The tray includes a cover that is sealed thereto. For example, the cover may be sealed by an adhesive around a peripheral edge of the tray. In order to gain access to the contents of the tray, the cover is peeled or removed from the

tray and the container is subsequently removed from the tray. The container may be relocated to any convenient location by a member of the surgical team. The container may rest on a planar surface defined in the tray that, in turn, has one or more surgical implements carried in recesses formed in the surface.

- 5 Access to these items is provided by removing the container.

The invention will be explained below in further detail by way of reference to an embodiment of the invention illustrated in the figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

- 10 Figure 1 is a perspective component view of an embodiment of a surgical kit according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of an embodiment of an accessory item container according to the present invention.

Figure 4 is a bottom view of the container shown in Figure 3.

- 15 Figure 5 is a side view of the container shown in Figure 3.

Figure 6 is a perspective component view of an embodiment of the container according to the invention having been removed from the tray.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a tray and stored components, including the container.

- 20 Figure 8 is a perspective view of an empty tray particularly illustrating the various structural features of the tray.

Figure 9 is a top plan view of the tray shown in Fig. 8.

Figure 10 is a side view of tray shown in Fig. 9 with the bottom surface of the tray facing upwards.

Figure 11 is an end view of the tray shown in Fig. 9 with the bottom surface of the tray facing towards the right.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the invention, one or more examples of which are illustrated in the figures. The embodiments are provided by way of explanation of the invention, and not meant as a limitation of the invention. For example, features illustrated or described as part of one
 10 embodiment may be used with another embodiment to yield still a different embodiment. It is intended that the invention include these and other modifications as come within the scope and spirit of the invention.

An embodiment of a surgical kit is illustrated in the figures as a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy ("PEG") kit 20. It should be understood
 15 that a PEG kit is illustrated and described herein as merely representative of an embodiment of a surgical kit according to the invention, and that the invention is not limited to a PEG kit or any other particular type of kit. A PEG procedure is utilized to place a feeding tube into a patient that extends from the interior of the patient's stomach exteriorly of the patient. The feeding tube permits nutrients to
 20 be placed directly into a patient's stomach. This may be necessary when a patient has a disorder of the gastrointestinal tract, malabsorption (impaired absorption of nutrients, vitamins or minerals from the diet by the lining of the small intestine), or neurological or renal disorders. The feeding tube inserted

using a PEG procedure is kept in place until a stoma is formed. Once a stoma is formed, a patient may remove and replace the PEG feeding tube with an alternate feeding device.

The PEG kit 20 may include a tray 22 having a plurality of planar surfaces and a plurality of recesses that may be disposed within the planar surfaces. The tray 22 may be formed of any suitable material, for example the tray 22 may be molded from a transparent or translucent substantially rigid plastic material (i.e., PETG). The tray 22 may have side walls 23 defining a depth of the tray 22. The planar surfaces may be vertically offset within the tray 22. For example, referring to Fig 8, a plurality of substantially horizontal planar surfaces 64, 66, 68, and 70 are defined in the tray 22. The planar surfaces may be co-molded with the tray 22. Each of the planar surfaces is vertically offset within the tray 22 with respect to at least one other planar surface.

A plurality of recesses adapted to hold articles or implements that are useful in performing the intended surgical procedure are defined in the various planar surfaces 64, 66, 68, and 70. Each recess may be adapted to hold one or more articles. Examples of recess configurations and respective articles held therein are discussed in greater detail below. The recesses may also include detents, protrusions, or the like to frictionally engage the articles and positively retain the articles within the respective recesses.

As seen in Figure 1, a cover 26 may be positioned on the tray 22 and, in some embodiments, may be adhered to a relatively flat peripheral surface 28 of the tray 22. A corner 30 of the tray 22 may be configured so that the cover 26 is

not adhered to the corner 30. In such an embodiment, a user may grasp the cover 26 that is positioned adjacent to the corner 30 to remove the cover 26 from the tray 22. The cover may be attached or configured with the tray by any suitable method, including but not limited to adhesives, heat sealing, sonic or thermal welding, solvents, etc. After all of the articles have been placed in the tray 22 and the cover 26 sealed to the tray, the kit is subjected to an ETO (ethylene oxide) gas sterilization process. A suitable cover material is Tyvek™, a spunbond polyolefin, from DuPont of Wilmington, Delaware. Any number of other permeable web materials suitable for sterilization (ETO), such as Kraft paper, may be used as the cover 26.

As illustrated generally in the figures, a container 24 is provided with the kit 20. The container is desirably a substantially rigid structure adapted to fit at least partially within the tray 22. For example, the container 24 may rest upon the planar surface 64. Desirably, the container 24 is disposed generally at the top of the tray so that access is provided to the container 24 immediately upon removing the cover 26 from the tray 22. In this way, the container 24 can be the first item removed from the tray 22 without touching or displacing any of the other articles in the tray 22. The tray side walls 23 and a bumper wall 25 may define a nesting place and engage or retain the container 24 in a precise location within the tray 22. In one embodiment, the container 24 may be press-fitted into the nesting place. In another embodiment, the container 24 may be loosely received into the nesting place.

Figures 3-5 illustrate an embodiment of a container 24 that may be used in the present invention. The container 24 may include a substantially rigid lid 34 and a base 36, the lid 24 and the base 36 being flexibly attached to each other by a hinge 38 (i.e., a living hinge) in a clam-shell configuration. In some

5 embodiments, the lid 34 and the base 36 may not be attached to each other, or may be attached to each other using alternate configurations. The container may be molded or otherwise formed from the same polymer material as the tray 22. A lip 40 may be provided that extends around the edges of the lid 34 and the base 36. In particular embodiments, an extended portion 42 may be disposed along

10 one edge of the lip 40 to enable a user to more easily open the container 24. One or both of the lips 40 may include a number of bosses 41 extending therefrom. These bosses 41 keep the opposing lips 40 spaced apart in a closed state of the container so that the ETO (ethylene oxide) sterilization gas can readily permeate into the container.

15 The container 24 is desirably configured to be reclosable. In this manner, the container 24 provides a convenient device for storing used articles prior to disposal. The container 24 may be variously configured so that it is reclosable, by, for example, providing a pair of bosses 44 disposed on the lid 34 that mate to a pair of detents 46 that are disposed on the base 36. Other mechanisms that

20 may be useful to reclose the container 24 include adhesive, hook-and-loop fasteners, locking arms, and the like.

Embossing, such as embossing 52 in Figure 3, may be disposed on the outer surface 48 of the lid 34 or on the outer surface 50 of the base 36.

Alphanumeric, numeric or other characters may be embossed on the container 24.

The tray 22 and container 24 are illustrated as generally rectangular in the figures. However, it should be appreciated that these components may take on
5 any convenient shape.

Referring to Fig. 6, the container 24 may be adapted to hold a variety of additional medical articles including, for example, suture strands (packaged) 112A, swabs (i.e., povidone-iodine prep swabsticks) 124A, lidocaine insert 122A, fenestrated gauze pads 108A, gauze pads 108B, fenestrated drape 129A,
10 single-use packages of lubricant 130A, single-use packages of ointment 124B (i.e., povidone-iodine ointment), antibiotic ointment 128A, sponges, and the like. As described, the container is particularly well suited for retaining these devices after they have been used for later disposal.

As shown in the Figures in general, the tray 22 may include a first planar
15 surface 64. Several recesses are disposed in surface 64, including two recesses 76 that may be used to hold or support coiled articles and a needle recess 81. The recesses 76 can be seen particularly in Figs. 8 and 9 and may be, for example, generally circumferentially extending recesses that extend around at least a portion of a generally circular structure that defines planar surface 68, as
20 described in greater detail below. The needle recess 81 may include two elongated recesses 80 and 82 so that the needle recess 81 may hold two needles securely. In selected embodiments, recess 80 may be configured to hold a filter needle 80A and the recess 82 may be configured to hold a needle

82A. For a "pull" type PEG procedure, a recess 90 may be disposed in the first surface 64 and may be configured to hold a looped placement wire 90A. In some embodiments, the looped placement wire 90A may be coiled around a spool and the recess 90 may be rounded to easily accept and hold the looped placement wire 90A.

The first surface 64 may also include a recess 103 that may be configured to have elongated portions 104 and 105. A pair of surgical scissors 104A may be disposed in the portion 104 of the recess 103, and a hemostat 105A may be disposed in the portion 105 of the recess 103.

10 The first surface 64 may also include a recess 115 that may be elongated and have two spaced apart ends 114 and 116. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, a bolus feeding adapter 114A may be at least partially disposed in the end 114 of the recess 115. A universal feeding adapter 116A may also be at least partially disposed in the end 116 of the recess 115.

15 The first planar surface in the illustrated embodiment also defines a nesting place for the container 24. An elongated boss 126 may be disposed on the first planar surface 64 for this purpose. This boss 126 and two of the tray side walls 23 cooperate to define a recess or storage location for the container 24 on the first planar surface 64. The container 24 actually rests on the surface 64 above a number of the article recesses. For example, referring to Figs. 1, 8, and 20 the recesses 80, 81, 82, 90, 103, 104, and 105, as well as their associated articles, are all disposed under the container 24. The physician must first remove the container 24 to gain access to these recesses.

As seen in Figures 7-9, a second planar surface 66 may also be provided and may, in selected embodiments, be offset from the first planar surface 64.

Numerous recesses may be disposed in the second planar surface 66 including a recess 78 that is adapted to hold a container of lidocaine 78A and a recess 84
5 that may be adapted to hold a scalpel 84A, as shown in Figure 7.

A recess 110 may also be provided in the second planar surface 66, the recess 110 being adapted to hold an exterior tube retention device 110A. In some embodiments, a SECUR-LOK™ ring, available from Ballard Medical Products in Draper, Utah, may be used as an exterior tube retention device
10 110A. A boss 132 may be disposed in the recess 110 to support the exterior tube retention device 110A.

The second planar surface 66 may also include a recess 94 that is adapted to hold at least a portion of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube 94A, as seen in Figure 1. Such a PEG tube typically includes an
15 internal retention device such as a bumper 98A and an elongated tube 96A. For a "pull" type PEG procedure, a loop is provided at the end of the tube 96A. For a "push" type of PEG procedure, an elongated tapered tip 100A is provided at the end of the tube 96A. The recess 94 may include a rounded portion 98 that will hold the bumper 98A. The recess 94 may also include an elongated portion 96
20 that will hold at least a portion of the elongated tube 96A. The portion of the elongated tube 96A that is not disposed in the elongated portion 96 of the recess 94 may be coiled and placed within the recesses 76 that are formed in the first planar surface 64. In such an embodiment, a portion of the coiled elongated tube

96A may rest on the portions of the first planar surface 64 that are disposed between the recesses 76.

One or more bosses 92 may be disposed on the second planar surface proximate to the recess 94, one boss 92 being disposed on one side of the
5 recess 94 and another boss 92 being disposed on the other side of the recess 94. In such an embodiment, a retrieval snare 92A, as seen in Figure 7, may be positioned on the second planar surface so that the handle 91A of the retrieval snare 92A is secured in place by the bosses 92. In such an embodiment, at least a portion of the retrieval snare 92A is positioned over a portion of the PEG tube
10 94A, the bumper 98A being disposed under the handle 91A of the retrieval snare 92A. The coiled end 93A of the retrieval snare 92A may be disposed over a portion of the coiled tube 96A of the PEG tube 94A so that both coils 93A and 96A supported by the first planar surface 64 and may be at least partially disposed in the recesses 76.

15 For "push" type PEG procedures, a coiled sheathed guide wire 106A may be provided in the kit, as seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 7. The guide wire 106A may be placed in the recess 76 on top of the coiled end of the snare 93A and coiled tube 96A of the PEG tube 94A.

A third planar surface 68 may also be provided in the tray 22. The third
20 planar surface may be offset from the first planar surface 64, from the second planar surface 66, or from both the first and second planar surfaces 64 and 66, respectively. In the embodiment depicted in the Figures, the third planar surface 68 may be disposed within the interior of the coils 93A and 96A. A recess 120

may be formed in the third planar surface as shown in Figure 9. The recess 120 may be configured to hold one or two twelve-ounce syringes 120A. A recess 118 may also be disposed in the third planar surface 68 and may be adapted to hold a tubing clamp 118A.

- 5 A fourth planar surface 70 may be disposed adjacent to the third planar surface 68, as seen in Figure 8. A recess 86 that is adapted to hold an introducer cannula 86A may be formed in the third and fourth planar surfaces 68 and 70, respectively.

- 10 In selected embodiments and as shown in Figure 8, a fifth planar surface 72 may be provided that is adjacent to the fourth planar surface 70. The fifth planar surface 72 may be configured to provide additional support to the coils 93A and 96A.

- 15 The tray 22 may also be configured to hold a pamphlet (not shown) that may contain various information such as, for example, directions for using the PEG kit 20.

- 20 The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the scope and spirit of the inventive characteristics thereof. The present embodiments therefore are to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.